

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:00 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord, Rich Kuklewicz, and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Angie Amadon; CWF Superintendent Chelsey Little; Parks and Recreation Director Jon Dobosz; Airport Director Bryan Camden; and Police Chief Chris Williams.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

**Approve Minutes:** Montague Meetings of July 21, 2025, if available

Postponed

**Public Comment Period:** Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Montague will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

Montague Tree Committee Co-Chair Eli Smith requests that the Board, the DPW, and residents put it an effort to water the trees in Town, especially those that are in desperate need.

**Chelsey Little, Sewer Commission**

- **FY26 Sewer Rate Hearing (Residential/Commercial, Industrial, Septage, RVs)**  
*Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept the FY26 Sewer Rates as presented. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Execute Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) for back-up sludge hauling and disposal**  
*Kuklewicz makes the motion to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) for back-up sludge hauling and disposal, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*
- **Execute MOU with Agresource, Inc. for the processing and dewatering of municipal wastewater sludge**  
*Kuklewicz makes the motion to execute the MOU with Agresource, Inc. for the processing and dewatering of municipal wastewater sludge. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**Jon Dobosz, Parks & Recreation Director**

**Request permission for public demonstration for Annual Rag Shag Parade on October 31, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Parade will start at 2nd Street parking lot proceeding South down Avenue A to Peskeompskut Park. Turners Falls Band will be leading the way -and- authorize Event Application to show a movie in conjunction with Annual Rag Shag Parade on Friday, 10/31/25 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at Peskeompskut Park**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the public demonstration for Annual Rag Shag Parade on October 31, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM (parade will start at 2nd Street parking lot proceeding South down Avenue A to Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls Band will be leading the way); and approve the Event Application to show a movie in conjunction with Annual Rag Shag Parade on Friday, 10/31/25 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at Peskeompskut Park. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**Bryan Camden, Airport Manager/Airport Commission Quarterly Check-in**

Camden gives a PowerPoint presentation updating the status of the Airport:

- **Airport Solar Development status and next steps**  
Eversource has not made any significant progress. Next steps include having a further in-depth discussion with Eversource. Camden believes it is time to go with some political pressure. Camden mentions that they may be looking at a smaller-scale solar project with a battery storage energy portion of it.
- **Items not on Agenda**  
Camden discusses the Potential New Revenue for FY26 which include Land Lease Increase, Additional Aircraft Storage, Multi-Use Space, and Commercial Storage Space; the Aviation Fuel Sales; the addition of Jet-A Fuel Services; the FY25 Budget; and the eventual addition of a part-time clerical position.
- **Request to increase Airport Fuel Revolving Account from \$200,000 to \$300,000 at Fall Special Town Meeting**  
The Airport Commission will be requesting an increase in the Airport Fuel Revolving Account from \$200,000 to \$300,000 at Fall Special Town Meeting due to a higher volume.
- **FY26 State Grant Requests: Pick-up truck w/ plow, back-up generator for Pioneer Aviation, roof solar for maintenance hanger**  
The Airport Commission will be putting through three grants through Aeronautics: a pick-up truck with a plow, a back-up generator for the Pioneer Aviation complex, and a roof solar array for the maintenance hanger.
- **FY26 Capital projects status**  
Camden states that they do not have any Town Capital Projects for FY26.

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- **FY27 budget planning**

Camden states that the budget doesn't have a lot of flexibility and they need to increase the overall budget by about \$15,000 to \$25,000.

- **Discussion**

- With regard to the clerical line, Kuklewicz suggests coordinating with the Town Administrator's Office as there may be a person on staff that could share some of the responsibilities.
- With regard to the utility infrastructure, Kuklewicz suggests having a conversation with the Tech School as they are looking to do some renovation work.
- Ramsey asks if the Selectboard would like to work on lobbying our State legislatures to try to advance the Airport project. He also suggests getting the EDIC involved and will work on drafting a letter.
- With regard to staffing, Lord suggests hiring a company to take care of the clerical work.
- With regard to fuel pricing, Lord asks if the revenue will be sufficient to cover the added wear and tear on the equipment. Camden says yes.
- Ramsey states that we are talking to different stakeholders to try to find greater solutions to get people from the airport to downtown. Options considered include e-bikes, transits, and loaner vehicles.
- Singleton expresses frustration with regard to Eversource's lack of progress on the energy grid.

**Chris Williams, Police Chief**

- **FY26 Memorandum of Agreement for School Resource Officer with Gill-Montague Regional School District**

*Goldman makes the motion to authorize the FY26 Memorandum of Agreement for School Resource Officer with Gill-Montague Regional School District. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **FY26 Regional Dog Shelter Services Agreement with Franklin County Sheriff's Office (\$880) -and - FY26 Regional Animal Control Services Agreement with Franklin County Sheriff's Office (\$16,505)**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize the FY26 Regional Dog Shelter Services Agreement with Franklin County Sheriff's Office (\$880) and the FY26 Regional Animal Control Services Agreement with Franklin County Sheriff's Office (\$16,505), and authorize the Chair to sign them. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**Personnel Board**

**Police Department:**

- **Appoint Felix Morales to part-time Police Officer (patrol) at \$30.00/hour effective August 4, 2005**

*Lord makes the motion to appoint Felix Morales to part-time Police Officer (patrol) at \$30.00/hour effective August 4, 2005. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

**Selectboard:**

- **Appoint Fern Smith to Executive Assistant to Selectboard, Grade E, Step 7 at \$61,443.00/annually, effective September 2, 2025**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Fern Smith to Executive Assistant to Selectboard, Grade E, Step 7 at \$61,443.00/annually, effective September 2, 2025. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*

**Department of Public Works:**

- **Appoint Steven Gochinski from DPW Truck Driver/Laborer to Grounds Maintenance, Grade H, Step 4 at \$24.04/hour effective August 4, 2025**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to appoint Steven Gochinski from DPW Truck Driver/Laborer to Grounds Maintenance, Grade H, Step 4 at \$24.04/hour effective August 4, 2025. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

**Montague Cultural Council:**

- **Appoint Maggie Martin to Montague Cultural Council for a 3-year term, effective 8/5/2025; term ends 6/30/2028 -and - appoint Kate Martineau to Montague Cultural Council for a 3-year term, effective 8/5/2025; term ends 6/30/2028.**

*Lord makes the motion to appoint Maggie Martin and Kate Martineau to the Montague Cultural Council for 3-year terms, effective 8/5/2025; terms ends 6/30/2028. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Appoint Julie Kumble to Montague Cultural Council for a 2-year term, effective 8/5/2025. Term ends 6/30/2027**

*Lord makes the motion to appoint Julie Kumble to Montague Cultural Council for a 2-year term, effective 8/5/2025; term ends 6/30/2027. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

- **Appoint Ben Letcher to Montague Cultural Council for a 1-year term, effective 8/5/2025. Term ends 6/30/2026**

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*Lord makes the motion to appoint Ben Letcher to Montague Cultural Council for a 1-year term, effective 8/5/2025; term ends 6/30/2026. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

### **Town Administrator's Business**

- **Authorize GZA Environmental to produce as-built survey and final recording document for Burn Dump closure - Request to authorize up to \$4,500 from unexpected engineering**

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to authorize GZA Environmental to produce as-built survey and final recording document for Burn Dump closure - Request to authorize up to \$4,500 from unexpected engineering, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **Opportunity for free technical assistance: Rural Infrastructure Strengths Evaluation (RISE) offered by RCAP Solutions via a USDA grant**

*Goldman makes the motion to accept the opportunity for free technical assistance: Rural Infrastructure Strengths Evaluation (RISE) offered by RCAP Solutions via a USDA grant, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye*

- **10/1/2025 Health Insurance Rate Increase updates**

Ramsey shares that the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust voted to do a 20% increase on premiums for town employees that have health insurance through their town. The Town has until the spring to evaluate its options for looking at other insurance options.

- **Selectboard Strategic Planning Workshop**

Ramsey shares that we are working on a Selectboard Strategic Planning Workshop and summarizes its goals.

- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirements**

None

### **Next Meeting:**

Selectboard Meeting: August 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

*Kuklewicz makes the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye*